

**Remarks/Arguments:**

In a telephonic interview that took place on August 5, 2004 between Examiner Jung W. Kim and Applicant's representative David J. Zoetewey, claims 1-32 were discussed in regard to the §101 and §112 rejections of the Office Action as well as the §103 rejection and *Curtis*. In the interview, agreement was reached on proposed amendments to the claims to overcome the §101 rejections in the Office Action submitted on March 21, 2004 consisting, inter alia, defining a machine or computing device to perform the operations listed in the claims. The Examiner agreed to reconsider the §112, first paragraph rejection in light of this response which was to point out the enabling disclosure in the specification. In regards to the §112, second paragraph rejections to claims 1 and 25, Applicant agreed to further disclose the relationship between the step for solving a system of linear equations and the transforming and inverting means defined earlier in the claims in a response and/or amendment to the claims with the Examiner agreeing to reconsider the claims in light of such a response/amendment. Further, Applicant's representative argued against the §112, second paragraph rejections to claims 9-24 and the Examiner found the argument persuasive and agreed to reconsider the rejections following a formal response to the Office Action. Finally, the §103 rejections of claims 1 and 25 were discussed but no agreement was reached.

Claims 1-2, 4-26, and 28-31 remain in this application. Claims 3 and 27 have been canceled. All the remaining claims (1-2, 4-26, and 28-31) were amended herein.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is moot in light of the amendments contained herein which are consistent with the form agreed upon in the August 5, 2004 telephonic interview.

The Office Action rejected claims 2, 3, 6, 26, 27, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is moot in light of the amendments contained herein. However, in considering the allowability of claims 2 and 6 and the claims that depend from claim 2 and 6, it should be noted that claim 2 is based on the embodiment described on page 28, line 19 to page 53, line 2 of the specification, and that claim 6 is based on the embodiment described on page 53, line to page 62, line 1 of the specification. It may be beneficial to pay particular attention to pages 34-35, Figure 3 and pages 41-44, and Figure 6 and pages 49-50 of the specification.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, in particular the step of using the recited steps for solving a system of linear equations in an encryption or decryption device. This rejection is moot in light of the amendments to claims 1 and 25, in particular the deletion of the phrase "for use in encryption or decryption".

The Office Action rejected claims 9-24 under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph, as failing to omit essential steps, in particular how the root and solutions are used to compute the inverse. This rejection is moot in light of the amendments contained herein. Moreover, the elements asserted to be missing by the Office Action aren't an omission amounting to a gap between the steps. The claim language, particularly as amended herein, is clear as to what steps are to be performed. As such, Applicant requests that this rejection be reconsidered, particularly in light of the amendments contained herein.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Curtis* in view of *Shamir*. This rejection is moot in light of the amendments contained herein. As the cited references, individually or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or motivate the claimed apparatus, record medium and/or method, the pending claims are allowable. Among other things, the cited references do not teach, suggest, or motivate solution of a system of linear equations by triangular transforming a coefficient matrix into an upper triangular matrix without performing a division on the finite field  $GF(p)$ .

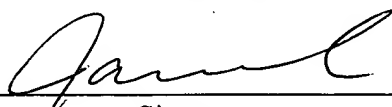
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It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance, and an early notification of the same is requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

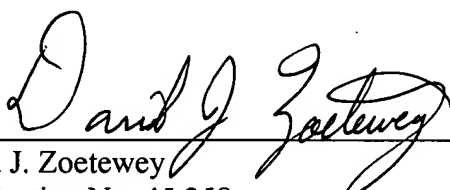
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 8, 2004.

By: James Lee  
  
Signature

Dated: September 8, 2004

Very truly yours,

**SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.**

  
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